Since the donations are small and scattered, there is no centralised compilation system for the various donations made by different banks.

Excise outstanding against HINDALCO

2714. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that huge excise duty is outstanding against HINDALCO;

(b) what is the total amount outstanding and since when;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Company has failed to clear the outstanding dues; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to realise the amount ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) and (b) Excise duty amounting to Rs. 17.72 lakhs is reported to be pending against M/s. HINDALCO for over 4 years.

(c) and (d) The Company has not yet cleared these dues in view of a stay granted by Collector (Appeals) before whom the case is pending. Collector (Appeals) has been advised to expedite his decision in this case.

Action taken against Shri Rajindra Sethia for cheating banks

2715. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the nature of action taken by Government of India in regard to the recovery of money from Shri Rajindra Sethia, who has cheated Punjab National Bank, Central Bank of India and Union Bank of India, London Branches to the tune of Rs. 250 crores;

(b) whether action against the officers of banks has also been initiated; and

(c) if so what are the details of the action taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) Punjab National Bank, Central Bank of India and Union Bank of India have filed claims with the official liquidator for M/s Esal (Commodities) Ltd. They have also lodged their claims with the Central Bank of Nigeria in respect of those bills pertaining to Nigeria. The Banks have also made some recoveries by sale of securities such as landed properties, shares etc. As a result of these steps, three banks have so far recovered Rs. 91 crores approximately.

(b) and (c) Union Bank of India has dismissed two of its officers connected with the transactions whilst Punjab National Bank has terminated the services of one officer and censured two others. Chargesheets have been served on two other officers. Central Bank of India has suspended one of its officers and withheld the terminal benefits of another officer pending disposal of criminal and civil action filed against them by the Bank.

Grant of loans for industrial and business purposes

2716. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the present system of loans granted to the industrial and business purposes is very defective and the payments are released by the banks without verification;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to amend the rules in regard to the advance of loans; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that it is not correct to state that the present system of loans granted for industrial and business purposes is very defective or that payments are released by banks without verification. By and large all banks have well defined systems and and procedures ofr grant of advances for various purposes and defects noticed could be attributed mainly to failure to comply with prescribed procedures in individual cases. Further, in many cases actual performance of borrowers falls short of projections made